

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

36

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Joseph J. Simons
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Simons and Chairman Pai:

We write to urge the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to broadly investigate the sale of Americans' location data by wireless carriers, location aggregators, and other third parties.

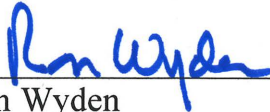
Last year, multiple news reports highlighted the fact that the four major wireless carriers, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon, sold their customers' location data to approximately seventy companies, without the explicit knowledge or consent of their customers. After significant negative press coverage, the wireless industry pledged to end these business practices. A recent investigation published by *Motherboard*, however, demonstrated not only that the wireless carriers are still failing to protect their customers' private information, but also that location data can be purchased by stalkers, domestic abusers, and others. It is clear that these wireless carriers have failed to regulate themselves or police the practices of their business partners, and have needlessly exposed American consumers to serious harm.

To that end, we urge the FTC and the FCC to conduct broad investigations, as appropriate, into the business partnerships between wireless carriers and location aggregators, including resellers and all downstream buyers of location data. Specifically, your agencies should determine whether wireless carriers or aggregators knew, or should have known, that failing to demand and verify subscriber consent would result in individuals obtaining location data without the respective subscriber's knowledge or consent. We also ask your agencies to require the wireless carriers to notify every American whose location they shared or sold and to identify to those subscribers the specific companies that obtained their location information.

Americans expect that their location data will be protected. The wireless industry has repeatedly demonstrated a blatant disregard for its customers' privacy. It is therefore vital

that regulators take swift action to ensure that consumers are protected. Please respond to this letter by February 5, 2019.

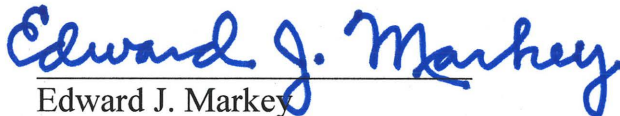
Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



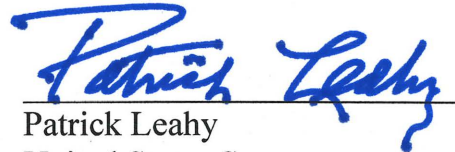
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



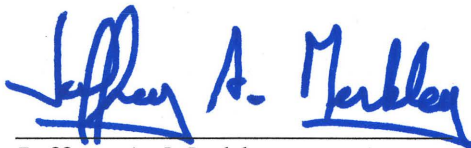
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



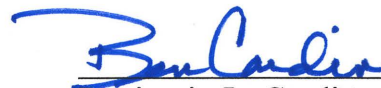
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



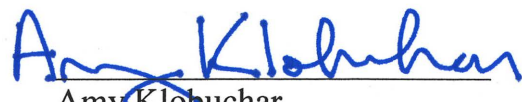
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



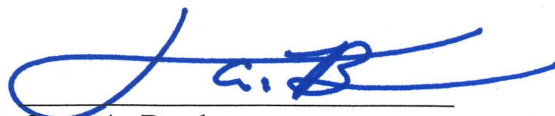
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



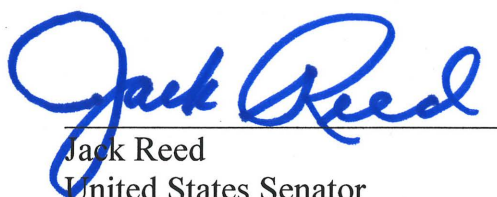
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

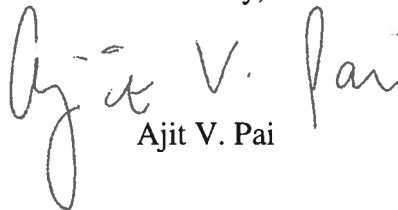
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ajit V. Pai", is positioned above the printed name. The signature is written in dark ink and is somewhat stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

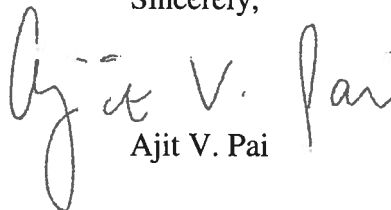
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai".
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "P".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

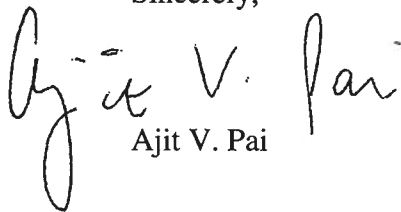
The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "P".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

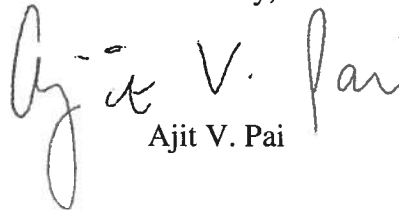
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

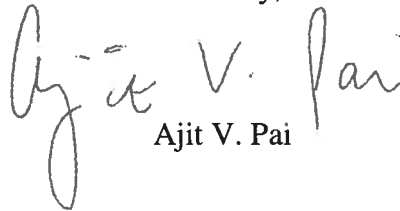
The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai".
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2019

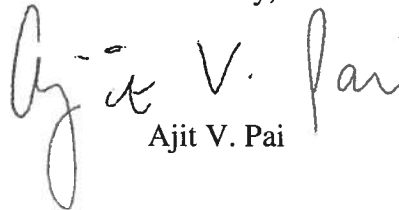
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing investigation of wireless carriers for allegedly sharing the location information of American citizens without adequate safeguards. As you know, the Commission launched an investigation of these practices last year. The Commission takes its responsibility in this regard seriously. Accordingly, and to maintain the integrity of such investigations, the Commission's practice is not to comment further until the investigation has concluded.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai